

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 SWF-02 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10

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R 132230Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2613

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS TOKYO 7820

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR FAS

BANGKOK PASS HAVILAND

KUALA LUMPUR PASS NICKS

HONG KONG PASS CHAMPEAU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD JA

SUBJECT: MIN. KURAISHI OF MAF TO VISIT S.E. ASIA

REF: TOKYO 7176

1. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY KURAISHI RETURNED JUNE 10 FROM VISIT TO MALAYSIA AND THAILAND. ACCORDING TO MAF OFFICIAL WHO ACCOMPANIED MINISTER, JAPANESE DELEGATION WAS IMPRESSED WITH EXCELLENT RECEIPTION IN BOTH COUNTRIES. KEY ISSUE IN BOTH COUNTRIES WAS CONCERN OVER FERTILIZER SHORTAGE FOR WHICH THEY PLAN TO SEEK A SOLUTION DURING THE WORLD FOOD CONGRESS IN NOVEMBER.

2. KURAISHI DELEGATION MET WITH JAPAN'S AGRICULTURAL REPRESENTATIVES FROM NINE ASIAN COUNTRIES. THEIR DISCUSSIONS MAINLY FOCUSED ON AREAS THAT NEW INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE PUBLIC CORP. SHOULD CONCENTRATE UPON AND ON THE PRODUCTION SITUATION IN THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

3. DELEGATION MET WITH THAI MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FINANCE. MAIN SUBJECTS WERE CONCERN OVER SUPPLY OF FERTILIZER, JAPAN'S FURTHER OFFER OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE NEWLY APPROVED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE PUBLIC CORP. AND JAPAN'S OFFER TO PURCHASE MORE CORN AND SUGAR, IF AVAILABLE, TO EASE IMBALANCE OF TRADE.

4. DELEGATION MET WITH MALAYSIAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WHO, BESIDES CONCERN ABOUT SUPPLY OF FERTILIZER, DISCUSSED MALAYSIAN EXPANDING PALM OIL PRODUCTION AND THE NEED FOR LARGER MARKETS. KURAISHI REPORTEDLY SAID JAPAN IS A GROWING MARKET FOR VEGETABLE OIL AND WHILE HE MADE NO COMMITMENT ON QUANTITY DID APPARENTLY INDICATE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED PURCHASES BY JAPANESE INDUSTRY.

5. JAPAN DELEGATION DISCUSSED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE SILK INDUSTRY IN BOTH MALAYASIA AND THAILAND.

6. WHILE NO FIRM COMMITMENT MADE ON EITHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OR INCREASED TRADE, MINISTER KURAISHI EXPRESSED JAPAN'S GOOD INTENTIONS IN BOTH AREAS.
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